

Patent Appl. Ser. No. 10/731,361
Group Art Unit: 3671

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 are pending in the application. Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 14, 18 and 19 and cancelled claims 2, 11, 12, and 13. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the foregoing remarks.

1. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has objected to claims 2-6, 8, 9, 19 20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (See page 3 of Office Action). Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 14, 18, and 19 to incorporate the dependent claim 2, 11, 12, and 13. Claims 3-9 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Applicant has amended claims 10, 14, 18 and 19 to incorporate the dependent claim 11, 12, and 13. Claims 11-20 depend directly or indirectly from claim 10. Withdrawal of the objection and allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 is respectfully requested.

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2. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 7, 10-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Foley (5,163,518) as disclosed by the applicant. Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 14, 18, and 19 to incorporate the dependent claim 2, 11, 12, and 13. Claims 3-9 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Applicant has amended claims 10, 14, 18 and 19 to incorporate the dependent claim 11, 12, and 13. Claims 11-20 depend directly or indirectly from claim 10. The Examiner has objected to claims 2-6, 8, 9, 19 20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims (See page 3 of Office Action). Withdrawal of the objection and allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 are believed to be in condition for allowance and are not anticipated by the prior art relied upon in the rejection.

CONCLUSION

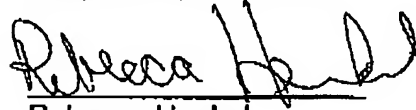
It is submitted that claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and defines patentable subject matter. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

No fees are due with this communication. Nevertheless, should the Examiner consider any fees to be payable in conjunction with this or any future communication, authorization is given to direct payment of such fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-1025.

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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it would help expedite matters.

Respectfully submitted,



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